

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS STATE 239353

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, CGEN, CA

SUBJECT: WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS: MICHAEL AND CORDELIA
MCMINN--TRIMARAN "DRUM"

REF: STATE 221461

1. AT THE REQUEST OF MARK SHEEHAN, FATHER OF CORDELIA
MCMINN, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PASS ON TO THE DEPART-
MENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF DEVELOP-
MENTS IN THE SUBJECT CASE.

2. FBI--THE FBI CHARACTERIZES ITS PARTICIPATION IN THIS
CASE AS ACTIVELY PENDING. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE IT IS
BEING INVESTIGATED FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF POSSIBLE
THEFT OR PIRACY. CONSEQUENTLY THE FBI IS CONDUCTING SOME
INTERVIEWS IN THE NORTHWEST AS LEADS IN THE CASE SO WARRANT.
THE FBI SAYS THAT IT HAS BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH RCMP
OFFICIALS AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY.

3. COAST GUARD--THE COAST GUARD INVESTIGATION IN THIS CASE
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IS ALSO STILL PENDING, BUT IS NOT ACTIVE. IN CONJUNCTION

WITH POLICE IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, THE COAST GUARD HAS CONDUCTED CHECKS OF VARIOUS MARINAS IN SEARCH OF THE "DRUM". IT HAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED HANDBILLS IN THE CASE. THE COAST

GUARD HAS MAINTAINED PERIODIC CONTACT WITH ITS COAST GUARD COUNTERPARTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

4. PRIVATE ACTIVITIES--ACCORDING TO MARK SHEEHAN, THE FATHER OF MICHAEL MCMINN HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO BRITISH COLUMBIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEARCH FOR HIS MISSING SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. THE ELDER MCMINN HAS RETURNED CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE THREE CONFIRMED SIGHTINGS OF THE "DRUM" IN THE HARROW STRAIT AREA. THE TRIMARAN WAS ALLEGEDLY SIGHTED BY A MINE-SWEEPER CAPTAIN AND OYSTER-DREDGE CAPTAIN AND A FERRY-BOAT CAPTAIN. MCMINN CHARACTERIZES THE COOPERATION HE IS GETTING FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AS "EXCELLENT". SHEEHAN EARLIER THIS WEEK CALLED ON CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE TO REQUEST THAT THEY CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING A HELICOPTER FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS INTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE AREA. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS REQUEST. KISSINGER

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